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NEWS RELEASES

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CM08-165

ART AND HISTORY PIECES COMMEMORATING THE RIVER UNVEILED UNDER THE TRAFFIC BRIDGE ON MVA TRAIL

The City of Saskatoon and Meewasin today unveiled significant art and historical items beneath the Traffic Bridge on the MVA Trail that commemorate transportation on the South Saskatchewan River.

The first item was the 100-year old kedge anchor believed to be from the wreck of the paddle-steamer the SS City of Medicine Hat. On June 7, 1908, the paddle-steamer became entangled in telegraph wires and struck the Traffic Bridge. It eventually broke up and washed downstream. Then in 2006, two Saskatoon Fire & Protective Services firefighters discovered an anchor during a practice dive in the river. The kedge anchor was preserved and restored by Stantec Consulting, and is now on display under the Traffic Bridge on the MVA Trail. (A kedge anchor is not used for mooring a vessel; instead, the anchor is used to move the vessel—the anchor is placed in the river bed and the vessel is then drawn toward it by taking up a cable).

The second piece unveiled today was the artwork Cut out of Time by Dundurn artist Elizabeth Yonza. The public art piece was commissioned through the Cultural Capitals of Canada program in 2006, when the City called for submissions for art to reflect the significance of the river to Saskatoon's development. Cut out of Time, made out of aluminum alloy plate, shows transportation on the river over the years, from canoes, to paddle-steamers, to other water activities. The images of the river's current and waves then turn into bison.

The South Saskatchewan River was a traffic corridor used first by the First Nations People then later by the growing community of Saskatoon. As Saskatoon developed into one of the key business hubs within the province, the river provided a business link to not only the rest of the prairies but to the world beyond. Items like Cut out of Time and the Anchor commemorate the importance of the South Saskatchewan River to Saskatoon.

The unveilings were during Rivers to Oceans Week (June 8-14) which focuses on creating an understanding of Canada's watersheds, our connection to fresh and saltwater environments, and what we can do to protect them.

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